

FORDEN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
RECEIVED
4 OCT 1952

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year ended 31st December 1951

To the Sanitary Authority of the Rural District of Forden

Mr Chairman Ladies, and Gentlemen.

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Rural District for the year ended 31st December 1951. The report is drawn up in accordance with instructions contained in the Welsh Board of Health circular No 42/51(Wales).

Vital Statistics

Area of the Rural District; 44.774 acres

Population; 5049 (mid-year estimate) This is an increase of 75 on the figure given for 1950.

<u>BIRTHS</u>	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Legitimate	45	39	84
	Illegitimate	0	4	4
		<u>45</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>88</u>
	<u>Still Births</u>			
	Legitimate	1	0	1
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>

BIRTH RATES

Live Birth Rate (per 1000 estimated population) 17.4

(compared with 15.5 for England and Wales)

Still Birth Rate (per 1000 estimated population) 0.19
(compared with 0.36 for England and Wales)

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
From all causes	28	31	59

DEATH RATE (per 1000 estimated population) 11.6 (compared with 12.5 for England and Wales)

INFANT MORTALITY

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under One year of age			
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age			
Legitimate	0	0	0
Illegitimate	0	0	0

INFANT MORTALITY RATE (per 1000 live births) Nil (compared with 29.6 for England and Wales)

<u>Comparative Statistics</u>	<u>Year 1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>
Population	4967	4974	5049
Live Birth Rate	16.3	15.7	17.4
Still Birth Rate	0.60	0.20	0.19
Death Rate	11.7	12.1	11.6
Infant Mortality; Rate	37.0	38.4	0.

<u>Causes of Death during the year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	5	8	13.
Coronary Disease, Angina	2	3	5
Hypertension with heart disease	1	0	1
Other heart disease	5	3	8
Influenza	2	2	4
Pneumonia	0	2	2
Bronchitis	1	0	1
Cancer of the stomach	2	1	3
Cancer of the lung	1	0	1
Cancer of the breast	0	1	1
Cancer of the uterus	0	1	1
Cancer of other sites	4	2	6
Leukaemia	0	1	1
Diabetes	0	1	1
Whooping Cough	0	1	1
Accident (other than road accident)	1	0	1
Suicide	0	1	1
Other defined and ill defined diseases	3	3	6
Other circulatory disease	1	1	2
	<u>28</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>59</u>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year the following diseases were notified:-

Primary Pneumonia	16	3	19.
Measles	75	88	163
Whooping Cough	27	28	55
Scarlet Fever	0	1	1
Erysipelas	0	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0	1	1

It will be noted that there was a severe epidemic of Measles but there were no deaths from the disease. There was only one death from Whooping Cough.

By arrangement with the County Medical Officer of Health, cases of Infectious Disease are, when necessary, admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Monkmoor, near Shrewsbury.

TUBERCULOSIS

It is particularly gratifying to note that only one case of Tuberculosis was notified during the year. This was of Pulmonary tubercle; there were no cases of non-pulmonary tubercle.

All cases of tuberculosis or suspected cases are referred to the Consulting Chest Physician, Dr G.O. Thomas. Clinics are held on the first and third Mondays in each month at the Welshpool Hospital at 10 a.m. The Physician also visits patients at their homes (by arrangement with their Medical Attendants) and maintains supervision of all tubercular patients during the course of their illness. Patients from this area are treated at the Chest Hospital, Machynlleth, the North Wales Sanatorium Denbigh, and the South Wales Sanatorium Talgarth.

The Chest Physician is also available for consultation in all cases of chest disease, other than Tuberculosis, and I would like to thank him for his willing help and co-operation at all times.

Year 1949	Year 1948	Year 1947	Year 1946
Population	4987	4975	5025
Live Birth Rate	15.3	15.7	17.4
Still Birth Rate	0.20	0.20	0.19
Death Rate	11.7	12.1	11.8
Infant Mortality Rate	27.0	28.4	0.

Cause of Death during the year	Male	Female	Total
Vascular lesions of the Nervous System	2	0	2
Coronary Disease, Arteriosclerosis	1	0	1
Hypertension with heart disease	0	0	0
Other heart disease	0	0	0
Influenza	0	0	0
Pneumonia	0	0	0
Fractures	0	0	0
Cancer of the stomach	0	0	0
Cancer of the lung	0	0	0
Cancer of the breast	0	0	0
Cancer of the uterus	0	0	0
Cancer of other sites	0	0	0
Intestinal	0	0	0
Leukemia	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Accidents (other than road accidents)	0	0	0
Scabies	0	0	0
Other defined and all defined	0	0	0

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

Primary Pneumonia	1	0	1
Measles	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0
Erysipelas	0	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0	0	0

It will be noted that there was a severe epidemic of Measles but there were no deaths from the disease. There was only one death from Whooping Cough.

In agreement with the County Medical Officer of Health, cases of Infectious Disease are, when necessary, admitted to the Isolation Hospital at Monmouth, near Stroud.

It is particularly gratifying to note that only one case of Tuberculosis was notified during the year. This was of Pulmonary Tuberculosis; there were no cases of non-pulmonary tubercle.

All cases of tuberculosis or suggested cases are referred to the Consulting Chest Physician, Dr. G. O. Thomas. Clinics are held on the first and third Mondays in each month at the Welmoor Hospital at 10 a.m. The Physician also visits patients at their homes (by arrangement with their Medical Attendants) and maintains supervision of all tubercular patients during the course of their illness. Patients from this area are treated at the Chest Hospital, Monmouth. The Chest Hospital is also available for consultation in all cases of chest disease, other than Tuberculosis. I would like to thank him for his willing help and co-operation.

Maternity Services

Ante-natal and post-natal care is provided by the Medical Practitioners of the district, and clinics are held each week in the Hospitals serving the area.

The Domiciliary Midwifery Service is very efficiently carried out by the District Nurses under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health. Child Welfare Clinics are held each month at various centres.

Vaccination against Small Pox and Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out at these clinics, and also by the General Practitioners of the district.

Specialist Services

In addition to the Consultant clinics listed in my last report, there has now been added the services of a Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist, Mr Owen Jones, F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G. who attends at the Welshpool Hospital on every fourth Tuesday. He is also available for any urgent consultations at all times.

WATER SUPPLY- BERRIEW

The Piped supply from Ladywell Spring was again sufficient for the Standpipe supply to the Village, and for the fourteen new Council Houses situated therein. Practically all the work on the scheme for improving the water supply has been completed, but the work has been, and still is being held up, owing to the non-delivery of essential fittings. All the new water mains have been laid, and a 10,600 gallons steel storage tank has been erected. A supply of Electricity has been made available, and all that remains to be done is the fitting of a Chloro-pump, and a few minor items of work, such as fencing.

A definite increase in the quantity of water which can be collected has been obtained, but in order to ascertain whether there will be sufficient water to supply twenty more Council Houses which it is proposed to build, gaugings will have to be made during the drought periods of the year. Further, the Council has in mind the provision of a Sewage Disposal Plant for the Village and of course, the quantity of water available will have to be considered before proceeding with this matter.

BERRIEW (DUFFRYN LANE COUNCIL HOUSES) - The eight houses on this site each have a semi-rotary pump in the back kitchen, and draw water from a well. There is an adequate supply.

CHURCHSTOKE - Again there was a plentiful supply of piped water available for the tenants of the County Council Small Holdings at Pentrenent, and also on the Council's Housing Site. Water from this site is supplied to the Village School, School Canteen, School House, Police House, Three County Council Small Holdings, and two other houses, in addition to the fourteen Council Houses. The Borehole is capable of being pumped at the rate of 12,000 gallons per 24 hours.

LEIGHTON - Here the piped supply, jointly owned by a number of private users, was again satisfactory as to quantity. So far as the site on which it is proposed to build Council Houses is concerned, efforts to obtain a supply of water have been most disappointing. A Borehole put down 70 feet only yielded 700 gallons per 24 hours. Water was entering the Borehole 15 feet below ground surface. A well was then sunk, four feet in diameter, hoping that the increased internal area would allow a greater yield of water, but this did not prove to be the case.

ABERNULE - An abundant piped supply of wholesome water is available for the four Council Houses at Parkside Site. On the new site, which it is hoped will shortly be developed, a Borehole has been sunk, with very satisfactory results. A continuous pumping test of 168 hours

Maternity Services

Ante-natal and post-natal care is provided by the Medical Officers of the district, and clinics are held each week in the Hospital serving the area.

The Contraceptive Medical Service is very efficiently carried out by the District Nurses under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Child Welfare Clinics are held each month at various centres.

Vaccination against Small-Pox and Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out at these clinics, and also by the General Practitioners of the district.

Specialist Services

In addition to the Consultant clinics listed in my last report, there has now been added the services of a Consultant Gynaecologist and Obstetrician, Mr. Owen Jones, F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G. who attends at the Hospital Hospital on every fourth Tuesday. He is also available for any urgent consultations at all times.

Water Supply - NEWBURY

The piped supply from Ladywell Spring was again sufficient for the Standpipes supply to the Village, and for the fourteen new Council Houses situated there. Practically all the work on the scheme for improving the water supply has been completed but the work has been, and still is being held up, owing to the non-delivery of essential fittings. All the new water mains have been laid, and a 10,000 gallon steel storage tank has been erected. A supply of electricity has been made available, and all that remains to be done is the fitting of a Chloro-pump, and a few minor items of work, such as fencing.

A definite increase in the quantity of water which can be collected has been obtained, but in order to ascertain whether there will be sufficient water to supply twenty more Council Houses which it is proposed to build, gaugings will have to be made during the frosty periods of the year. Further, the Council has in mind the provision of a Sewage Disposal Plant for the Village and of course, the quantity of water available will have to be considered before proceeding with this matter.

NEWBURY (MILKING LANE COUNCIL HOUSES) - The eight houses on this site each have a satisfactory pump in the back kitchen, and draw water from a well. There is an adequate supply.

CHURCHSTOCK - Again there was a plentiful supply of piped water available for the tenants of the County Council Small Holdings at Churchstock, and also on the Council's Housing Site. Water from this site is supplied to the Village School, School Centre, School House, Police House, Three County Council Small Holdings, and two other houses, in addition to the fourteen Council Houses. The Borough is capable of being pumped at the rate of 12,000 gallons per 24 hours.

WIMBORNE - Here the piped supply, jointly owned by a number of private users, was again satisfactory as to quantity. So far as the site on which it is proposed to build Council Houses is concerned, efforts to obtain a supply of water have been most disappointing. A borehole put down 70 feet only yielded 700 gallons per 24 hours. Water was entering the borehole at least below ground surface. A well was then sunk, four feet in diameter, hoping that the increased internal area would allow a greater yield of water, but this did not prove to be the case.

WIMBORNE - An abundant piped supply of wholesome water is available for the four Council Houses at Wimbome. On the new site, where it is hoped will shortly be developed, a borehole has been sunk, and very satisfactory results. A continuous pumping test of 24 hours

duration pumped 168,000 gallons, that is 24000 gallons per day. This test was carried out after a period of dry weather. The Borehole is only 25 feet deep. The report on samples of the water sent for Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological Examination show that the quality is High - satisfactory.

FORDEN (LEIGHTON ROAD SITE) An adequate and satisfactory supply is available from a Borehole for the ten Council Houses on this site.

FORDEN (CHURCH SITE) An adequate and satisfactory supply is available from a Borehole for the sixteen Council Houses (Airey Type) on this site.

MIDDLETOWN Here a plentiful supply is available by gravitation to the six occupied Council Houses, and there will be more than sufficient water for the four houses now under construction, and for a further twelve which it is intended to build.

BAUSLEY

Although this site has not yet been developed, an abundant supply is available from a Borehole for the thirty-eight houses which will be erected.

LLANDYSSIL - A plentiful supply is available for the twenty Council houses which are being built on this site, from a Borehole.

NEW HOUSES

This has been a disappointing year for the Council so far as the building of new houses is concerned. Although every effort has been made to make good progress in the provision of badly needed houses, in some cases it has been, and still is, impossible to obtain tenders, at prices low enough to be acceptable to either the Council or the Ministry Department. In other cases, on sites where building operations are being carried out, progress has been unreasonably slow.

BERRIEW - Two more Council Houses are being built on the Vicarage site to fill in the site, which will then contain sixteen houses.

BERRIEW (DUFFRYN LANE) Two more houses were built during the year, making a total of eight houses on this site.

BERRIEW (B) SITE - Steps have been taken, short of purchasing, to acquire this site, on which it is proposed to build twenty houses. As reported under the heading "Water", much will depend on whether there is a sufficiency of water to supply these houses.

BERRIEW (BROOKS SITE) - A site on which it is proposed to build four houses has been selected, and much will depend on whether a sufficiency of water can be found. After a long period of dry weather, a trial hole will be put down in an effort to locate water.

CHURCHSTOKE - No acceptable tender for the erection of twenty traditional houses can be obtained. Negotiations are in progress regarding the erection of twenty "UNITY" Type Houses.

MIDDLETOWN - During the year, six traditional Council Houses were erected and work is in progress on four more. Plans have been prepared for the building of a further twelve houses on this site, but so far, efforts to obtain a tender at an acceptable price have failed.

FORDEN (CHURCH SITE) The Council's proposal to build four Bungalows in order to fill in this site were not approved by the County Planning Committee, which suggested two Bungalows. The matter is still under discussion. 4.

duration ranged 15,000 gallons, that is 24000 gallons per day. This test was carried out after a period of dry weather. The borehole is only 25 feet deep. The report on samples of the water sent for Chemical Analysis and Bacteriological Examination show that the quality is highly satisfactory.

FOURTH (CHURCH SITE) (An adequate and satisfactory supply is available from a borehole for the four Council Houses on this site.)

FIFTH (CHURCH SITE) (An adequate and satisfactory supply is available from a borehole for the five Council Houses (Type) on this site.)

SIXTH (CHURCH SITE) (An adequate and satisfactory supply is available from a borehole for the six Council Houses, and there will be more than sufficient water for the four houses now under construction, and for a further twelve which it is intended to build.)

SEVENTH (CHURCH SITE) (An adequate and satisfactory supply is available from a borehole for the seven Council Houses which are being built on this site, from a borehole which will be erected.)

EIGHTH (CHURCH SITE) (An adequate and satisfactory supply is available from a borehole for the eight Council Houses which are being built on this site, from a borehole which will be erected.)

NEW HOUSES

This has been a disappointing year for the Council as far as the building of new houses is concerned. Although every effort has been made to make good progress in the provision of badly needed houses, in some cases it has been, and still is, impossible to obtain tenders at prices low enough to be acceptable to either the Council or the Ministry of Housing. In other cases, on sites where building operations are being carried out, progress has been unacceptably slow.

NINTH (CHURCH SITE) - Two more Council Houses are being built on the Victoria Road site, which will then contain sixteen houses.

TENTH (CHURCH SITE) - Two more houses were built during the year, making a total of eight houses on this site.

ELEVENTH (CHURCH SITE) - Steps have been taken, short of purchasing, to secure this site, on which it is proposed to build twenty houses. It is expected that the heading "Water" will depend on whether there is a sufficiency of water to supply these houses.

Twelfth (CHURCH SITE) - A site on which it is proposed to build twenty houses has been selected, and much will depend on whether a sufficiency of water can be found. After a long period of dry weather, a trial hole will be put down in an effort to locate water.

Thirteenth - No acceptable tender for the erection of twenty traditional houses can be obtained. Negotiations are in progress regarding the erection of twenty "UNIT" Type Houses.

FOURTEENTH - During the year, six traditional Council Houses were erected and work is in progress on four more. Plans have been prepared for the building of a further twelve houses on this site, but no far, efforts to obtain a tender at an acceptable price have failed.

FIFTEENTH (CHURCH SITE) - The Council's proposal to build four houses in order to fill in this site were not approved by the Council Planning Committee, which suggested two bungalows. The matter is still under discussion.

LLANDYSSIL - Work is still in progress on the building of twenty Council Houses on this site. Progress has been very slow indeed.

ABERMUTHA - It is hoped to shortly acquire and develop this site, which has sufficient area for about twenty houses.

LEIGHTON - It has not been possible to make any progress here, as efforts to find a water supply have been most disappointing.

BAUSIEY - After a tender for the building of 38 houses had been accepted by the Council and approved by the Ministry Department, the Contractor withdrew this tender. Efforts are being made to obtain further tenders.

HOUSES BUILT BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

During the year, eight houses were built by private enterprise.

RECONSTRUCTIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Twelve houses were reconstructed or modernised during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE - Apart from the building of Sewage Disposal Plants on the Council's Housing Estates, there has been no change during the year. A Nuisance still exists at the Brynhyfryd Hospital, Forden, due to the unsatisfactory method of disposing of the effluent from the Kitchen and Laundry of this Hospital. Efforts made to abate the nuisance failed to produce the desired effect, and the Hospital Management Board now propose to overhaul and improve the entire sewage disposal system.

PUBLIC CLEANSING & SCAVENGING - During the year the Council acquired a modern Refuse Collecting Vehicle and commenced the scavenging of the whole of the District. Domestic refuse is collected throughout the area once a fortnight, and this service, which has been badly needed for many years is much appreciated by householders.

MILK SUPPLY - The County Agricultural Executive Committee, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, supervise methods of production and inspect Farm premises connected with milk production. So far as distribution is concerned, there are no complaints.

MEAT INSPECTION - The slaughtering of animals for human consumption is still centralised, and for this area is carried out at Newtown. Shops and Vans are kept under supervision, and, apart from condemning of small portions of meat, conditions were satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES - The three Bakehouses in the District are kept in satisfactory condition.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The District has been regularly inspected, and where defects have been found, they have been remedied as far as possible, still having regard to the restrictions on man power and materials. A number of major and minor works of repair & improvement have been carried out, but much still remains to be done. Again this year, the provisions of the Housing Act 1949, under which grants are available for reconditioning and bringing houses

up to standard, have not attracted any applications from owners for grants .

SCHOOLS - All schools in the District are in fair sanitary condition.

GENERAL - Complaints received - Thirty
 Samples of water taken Nine
 Premises disinfected- Nil

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr F. Hunt, for the section of this report which deals with the Water Supply, Housing etc and I would like to thank him and the Clerk to the Council, Mr A.B Thomas, for their assistance and co-operation at all times.

I am, Mr Chairman , Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D.R.B. MATHIAS

Medical Officer of Health.

